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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 15 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Tirana Airfield 2. Port of Durres 3. Soviet
Personnel 4. Government Opposition

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Tirana Airfield

1. The Tirana airfield is in a state of complete disrepair.¹ The hangers are in very poor condition and lack roofs. Relics of aircraft lie about the field. The concrete runway is barely visible through the high grass. Barracks and offices are uninhabited. No work is in progress for restoring the field.
2. Two propeller-driven fighter planes of Soviet manufacture were on the field in early July 1951. [redacted] state that the field is unusable by four-motored planes. There is no evidence of the presence of jet aircraft.

Port of Durres

3. Upon completion of the work now in progress for the improvement of the docks and port equipment, the capacity of the port of Durres should be greatly increased. At the present time, loading and unloading operations are carried out by using equipment which belongs to the cargo ships.
4. The present state of the improvements is as follows (see page 2):
 - a. The section of the breakwater marked "A" is in extremely bad condition.
 - b. Section "B" is a massive breakwater composed of huge blocks of reinforced concrete.
 - c. Section "C" is the dock proper. Section 1 is a wide-paved vehicle road. Section 2, now under construction, is a heavily-ballasted stretch over which will run tracks for two railway lines. Section 3 is being repaired; the tracks of the mobile cranes are being reinforced, as well as a third railway track which runs along this section.
 - d. Section "D" is a second dock which has been almost completely renovated, although work is still under way on section 4. About 30 workers and 2 two or three-ton cranes were employed here in early July.

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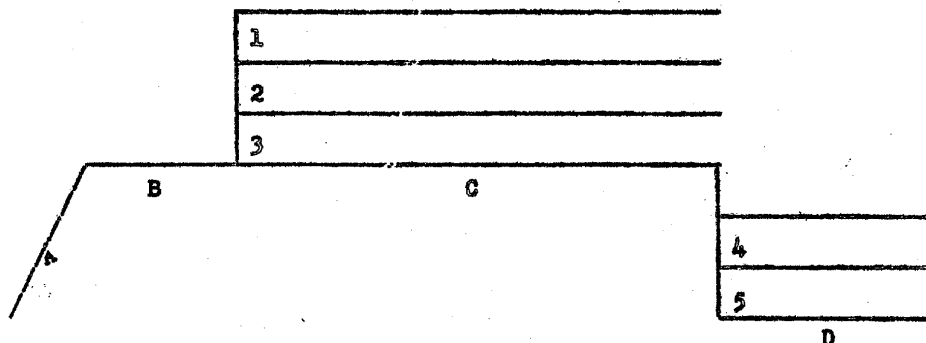
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5. The two mechanical cranes, each of about 15-ton capacity, have deteriorated from very poor maintenance. They did not appear to have been used for months. The valve and electric motor-housings (sic - cassette delle valvole e dei motori elettrici) were open; the lights, broken; the rails, disconnected.

Soviet Personnel

6. There are two to three thousand Soviets in Tirana. Officially there is only one general officer among them, but it cannot be excluded that others are present in civilian guise.
7. A large number of the Soviets, reportedly field-grade officers, are attached to the various ministries and industrial enterprises as "observers." In practice, they dominate the country, but manage to exercise their power with considerable diplomacy. They thus retain control, but not responsibility.

Opposition to the Government

8. Opposition to the Government unquestionably exists, but it is not organized. In June 1951, about ten persons entered Tirana from the surrounding hill country at approximately 2230 hours, wildly opened fire in the main square, then withdrew rapidly.

1. Comment: It will be noted that this information is at variance with other reports on the condition of the airfield at Tirana.

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